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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/626,309 | 07/26/2000 | Yoshio Miyazaki | .450100-02617 | 7899 |
| 20999 | 7590 | 03/11/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG 745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL. NEW YORK, NY 10151 | | | ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2654 | |

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/626,309 | Applicant(s) MIYAZAKI ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Angela A Armstrong | Art Unit 2654 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

1. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buchner et al (US Patent No. 6,535,854).

Buchner discloses a system for speech recognition control of remotely controllable devices in a home network environment.

2. Regarding claims 1, 2 and 7, Buchner discloses a voice input means for inputting the operator's voice (col. 2, lines 61-67); a control means for controlling the input/output of said electronic device through recognition of the operator's voice inputted by said voice input means (Figure 2; col. 2, lines 28-67; col. 10, lines 12-50); wherein, when any unregistered electronic device has been connected to said control means, said control means registers a voice recognition table provided from said electronic device (col. 4, lines 17-45; col. 9, lines 33-35; col. 10, lines 51-67; col. 11, lines 1-30), and when the operator's voice has been inputted by said voice input means, said control means compares the operator's voice with the voice recognition table of the preregistered electronic device, and then controls the input/output of said electronic device in accordance with the result of comparing the operator's voice with the voice recognition table (Figure 2, col. 2, lines 28-67; col. 10, lines 12-50); whereby said unregistered electronic device initiates registration of said voice recognition table by requesting permission to transfer said voice recognition table to said control means (col. 11, lines 4-6).

Buchner does not teach a prerecorded voice recognition table where an operator's voice is stored in advance as an expected value. However, providing a recognition vocabulary from a specific speaker so as to improve recognition accuracy was well known in the art of speech recognition.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Buchner to implement a speaker specific recognition vocabulary, as was well known in the art, for the purpose of improving the recognition accuracy of the speech recognizer.

3. Regarding claim 3, Buchner teaches the voice input means, the voice recognition unit and the controller, wherein said voice recognition unit recognizes the voice by comparing the voice recognition table of the registered electronic device with the input operator's voice, and when the operator's voice is coincident with the expected value in the voice recognition table, said voice recognition unit converts the operator's voice into voice text data by the use of said voice recognition table and then transfers the voice text data to said controller (col. 3, lines 25-20).

4. Regarding claim 4, the voice input means, the voice recognition unit and the controller, wherein, when the operator's voice inputted by said voice input means has been recognized to indicate the operation of said electronic device, said controller controls the input/output of said electronic device in accordance with the voice text data transferred from said voice recognition unit and indicating the operation of said electronic device (Figure 2; col. 2, lines 28-67; col. 10, lines 12-50).

5. Regarding claim 5, Buchner teaches the voice input means, the voice recognition unit and the controller, wherein, when the operator's voice inputted by said voice input means has been recognized to indicate the predetermined name of said electronic device, said controller receives

Art Unit: 2654

the voice text data transferred from said voice recognition unit and indicating the name of said electronic device, and instructs said voice recognition unit to use the voice recognition table of said electronic device for execution of subsequent voice recognition (col. 10, lines 13-33).

6. Regarding claim 6, Buchner teaches voice input means, the voice recognition unit and the controller, wherein said voice input means, voice recognition unit and controller are connected mutually via a communication line, and the operator's voice inputted by said voice input means and the voice text data are both transmitted to said communication line (col. 2, lines 28-67; col. 8, line 66 continuing to col. 9, line 19).

7. Regarding claim 8, Buchner teaches upon recognition of the operator's voice, detecting whether any duplicate expected values are present or not with regard to the same voice in a plurality of the voice recognition tables registered in said control section, and upon detection of any duplicate expected values, notifying the operator of such detection of the duplicate expected values, and further notifying the operator of a selection procedure for processing the duplication of the expected values (col. 10, lines 13-33).

8. Regarding claim 10, Buchner teaches upon registration of the voice recognition tables of the plural electronic devices connected to said control section, detecting whether any duplicate expected values are present or not with regard to the same voice in the plural voice recognition tables registered in said control section, and upon detection of any duplicate expected values, notifying the operator of such detection of the duplicate expected values, and further notifying the operator of a reregistration procedure for processing the duplication of the expected values (col. 8, lines 18-33).

Art Unit: 2654

9. Regarding claims 9 and 11, Buchner does not teach the selection procedure or reregistration procedure is displayed. However, providing a visual display of selections or menu options to the user to facilitate user operation was well known.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Buchner to display the selection and reregistration procedures to the user to facilitate user operation, because such a modification would assist the user in selecting the desired option on the first attempt, and thereby make the system more user friendly.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed October 15, 2004, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues Buchner does not disclose a voice recognition table registration scheme like that recited by Applicants. The Examiner disagrees and argues, at col. 11, lines 4-6, Buchner teaches when a new device is connected to the system, it is possible that the device broadcasts ID, network address, name and device type. Buchner teaches the newly connected device sends a notification message to the speech unit, and the speech unit then sends a request for and receives the command list from the device, which reads on "unregistered electronic device initiates registration of said voice recognition table by requesting permission to transfer said voice recognition table."

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A Armstrong whose telephone number is 703-308-6258. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (703) 305-9645. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Angela A Armstrong
Examiner
Art Unit 2654

AAA
March 3, 2005

Angela Armstrong